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Document Version

Final author's version (accepted by publisher, after peer review)

Publication date:

2017

[Link to publication in University of Groningen/UMCG research database](#)

Citation for published version (APA):

Luz, C. F., Dik, J-W., Friedrich, A., van der Palen, J., van Assen, S., Nannan Panday, P., & Sinha, B. (2017). Performing timely blood cultures for infectious patients is associated with shorter duration of therapy and reduced length of stay. 1. Poster session presented at Joint Annual Meeting of the German Society of Infectious Diseases (DGI) and the German Center for Infection Research (DZIF) 2017, Hamburg, Germany.

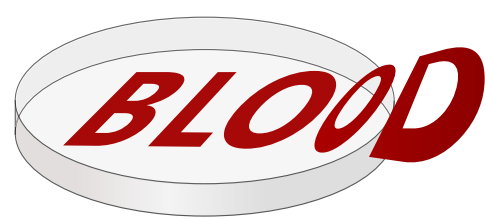
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BLOOD CULTURES' EFFECT ON LENGTH OF STAY

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STUDY PERIOD:
2009-2013

IV ANTIBIOTICS:
> 2 DAYS

AGE: ≥ 18 years

PATIENTS:
n = 2997

INTRODUCTION

Performing blood cultures is essential for appropriate antimicrobial therapy and mentioned in most guidelines on severe infections, but several studies show that guideline adherence is rather poor¹⁻⁴. This jeopardizes quality of care and increases the risk for resistance development. However, the impact of blood cultures has not been evaluated so far. We therefore analyze the effect of blood cultures on length of stay (LOS) and duration of therapy in patients receiving intravenous (IV) antibiotics on admission.

MATERIAL & METHODS

Setting: University Medical Center Groningen, 1339-bed academic tertiary referral hospital

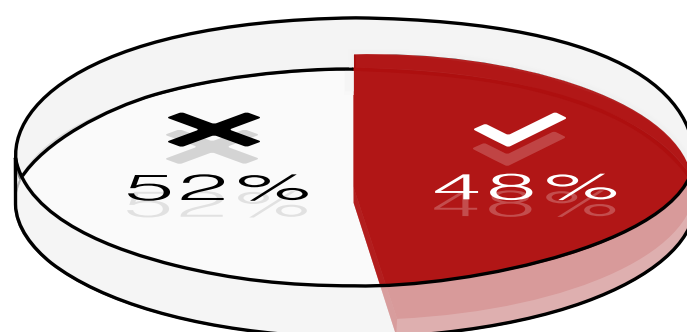
Antibiotics use: top ten prescribed non-prophylactic antibiotics in 2009-2013 (soon extended to 2016)

Antibiotic start: on admission (±1 day)

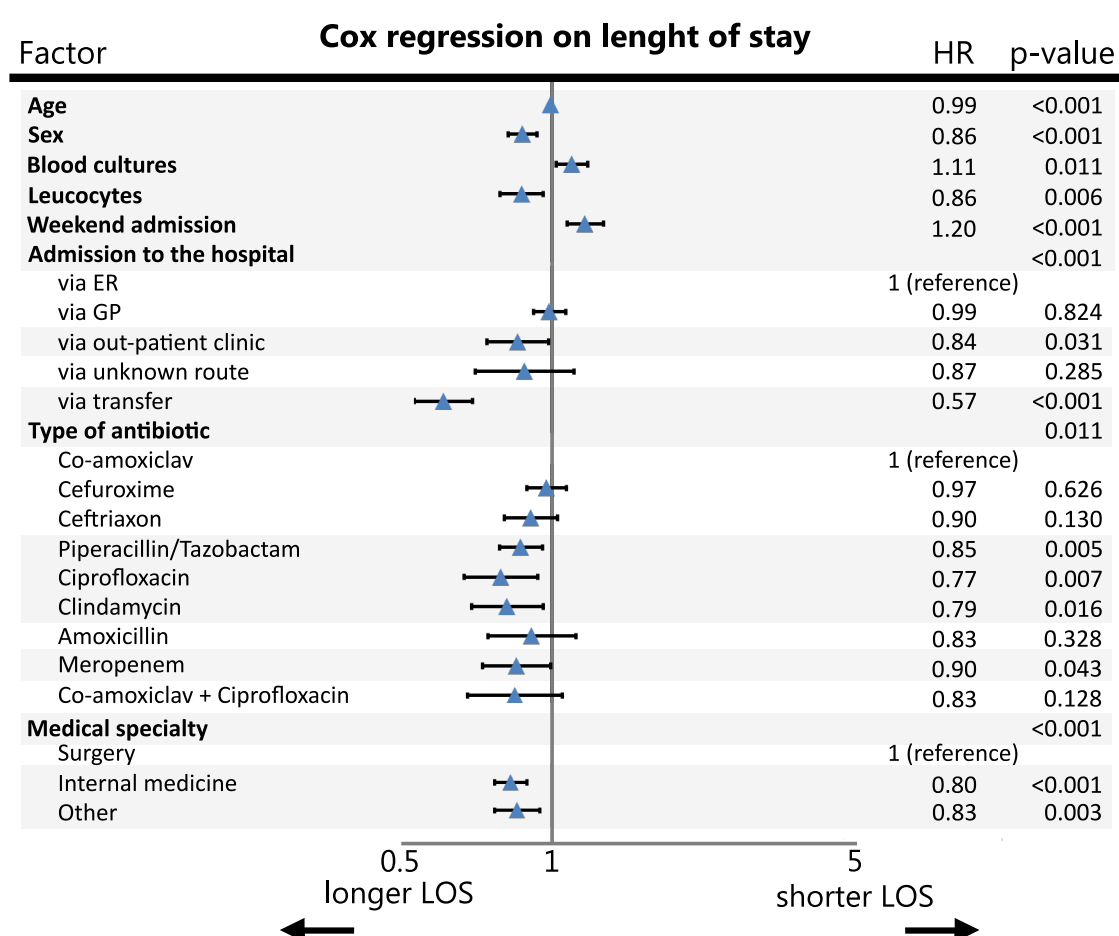
Exclusion: patients under 18 years, hematology and oto-rhino-laryngology wards

Statistics: Log-rank test, multiple logistic regression and Cox regression analysis

**BLOOD CULTURE
PERFORMED ?**



PRELIMINARY FINDINGS



- Association with likelihood for taking blood cultures in odds ratios (OR): Measuring CRP: OR = 8.13 (p<0.001)& measuring leucocytes: OR = 0.52 (p=0.064): adjustment see above
- Total duration of antibiotic therapy: 9.8 vs. 11.0 days (p=0.030)
- Total consumption in DDDs: 18.01 vs. 20.46 (p=0.915)

PRELIMINARY CONCLUSION

Patients with (timely) blood cultures performed had a significantly shorter duration of therapy and LOS. Increasing the compliance with existing guidelines for drawing blood cultures prior to starting antibiotic therapy

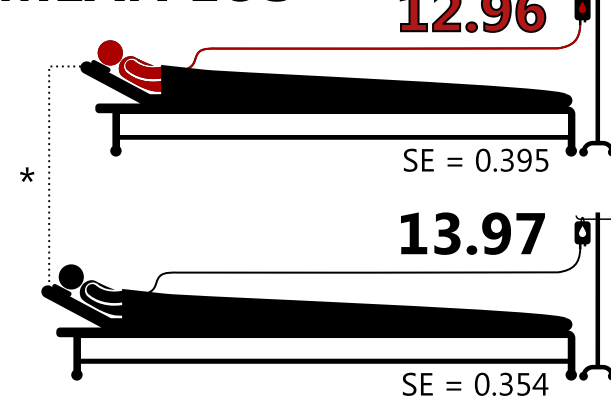
is most likely a useful intervention to improve quality of patient care and patient safety. These data underline the importance of an integrated, multidisciplinary approach in antimicrobial, infection prevention and diagnostic stewardship (AID)⁵.

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MEAN LOS



* log rank test: p < 0.017



Co-funded by the Horizon 2020
Framework Programme of the European Union



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